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low-paid, and because, with a fixed schedule of wages, they could make their calculations in advance more securely. The *Ferger* were reduced to the position of agents, receiving a fixed commission, and their exactions were otherwise curtailed. The association undertook the establishment of technical schools. It attempted to protect the Swiss industry against foreign (especially American) competition by purchasing the patent on an American steam embroidering machine, after which all the old machinery was to be bought up and destroyed. This heroic effort at the defense of a national industry failed. The subscription for the patent was never completed. The McKinley tariff law broke down the minimum wages scale, and the association went to pieces in 1892. A new organization is said to have been formed recently.

A. P. WINSTON.

A Country without Strikes. By H. D. LLOYD. New York: Doubleday, Page and Company, 1900. 8vo, pp. 183.

FROM every point of view it seems desirable to find some substitute for the present costly and militant methods of settling disputes between business managers and employees. Economically the waste of capital and of vital energy is irrational, and higher considerations of humanity and culture deserve to be weighed. The French *Conseils de prud'hommes* have been useful in deciding disputes on the interpretation of contracts, but they leave the vital matter of the wage rate untouched. The various schemes of voluntary arbitration have served a good purpose, but they break down precisely where arbitration is most needed, where there is a radical difference of judgment, or where one party is obstinate and finds "nothing to arbitrate."

Mr. Lloyd visited New Zealand to study the working of the system of compulsory arbitration by a special court. His report is enthusiastic and optimistic, and in style is lucid and readable. Objections will be showered on his findings. It will be said that the experiment is too short to yield conclusions; that New Zealand is too small a country to set an example to a great nation, with complicated interests; that compulsory arbitration would drive capital out of the country or cripple its efficiency; and that it does not suit the dignity of capitalists to come into court at the demand of their "servants."

But, there the fact stands, a country without strikes, and a prosperous country, though a little one. Pride may resist, obstacles may raise new objections, even temporary failure may befall the generous effort to substitute reason for starvation and brute violence, with many of the consequences of famine, pestilence and war. Theoretical anticipations of failure will be forgotten if success is gained, even on a moderate scale. The essential factors of an argument and a consideration of criticisms are found in this little volume, and it will be read hopefully by many who have not already made up their minds that civil war is the natural form of bargaining.

C. R. HENDERSON.

Les industries à domicile en Belgique, Vol. II. Bruxelles: J. Lebègue et C^{ie}. 1900. 8vo, pp. 225, 79, 156.

THIS volume contains monographs on three domestic industries in Belgium. They are interesting illustrations of a method of detailed study and are valuable as a magazine of statistical and other data relating to the life of the people of Belgium.

The first paper, by Ernest Dubois, is devoted to the linen weavers in Flanders (209 pages), and the analysis of topics will serve for the other two papers, since all are constructed upon the same plan. In the introduction the author sketches the history of the linen industry in Flanders, and characterizes the various branches, and describes the physical, demographic, economic, social, and moral environment.

Under the head of commercial organization there are four chapters: the origin and economic evolution of this kind of industry, and the technical process; the relation of manufacturer, overseer, and operative, with technical details; credit and capital; supplies, home and external markets, and competition with foreigners; crisis in prices and wages.

The second title, industrial organization, covers the topics of the origin of the operatives, the apprentice system, the employment of women, the wage contract, modes of remuneration, the truck system, duration of labor, unemployment, habitations, hygienic and sanitary conditions, food, associates, and labor legislation. An appendix contains diagrams and cartograms which illustrate the commercial and industrial tendencies. The second paper (79 pages), by Maurice Ansiaux, treats in the same way the industry of straw plaiting in the